



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

***Raised Bill No. 7407***

LCO No. 6250

\*06250\_\_\_\_\_JUD\*

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CITIZEN OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) There is established a  
2       prison oversight commission to examine and report on the policies and  
3       practices of the Department of Correction and recommend reforms in  
4       such policies and practices or legislation, or both, where warranted.
- 5       (b) The commission shall consist of the following members: The  
6       chairpersons and ranking members of the judiciary committee of the  
7       General Assembly, the Commissioner of Correction, the executive  
8       director of the African-American Affairs Commission and the  
9       executive director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission,  
10      or their designees, and fourteen public members appointed two each  
11      by the Governor, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker  
12      of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the  
13      majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of  
14      the Senate, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.  
15      The public members appointed shall include former prisoners, family  
16      members of current or former prisoners, faith community leaders and

17 other community leaders. Community groups may submit to the  
18 Governor and legislative leaders for consideration for appointment the  
19 names of individuals who are interested in serving on the commission  
20 and have been selected by such groups as their representatives. The  
21 commission shall select a chairperson from among its members. Any  
22 vacancy in the appointed membership of the commission shall be filled  
23 by the appointing authority. Members of the commission shall receive  
24 no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for any  
25 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

26 (c) Areas of commission oversight shall include, but not be limited  
27 to, programming, disciplinary process, safety for prisoners and staff,  
28 overall prison conditions, health and nutrition, reentry policies, prison  
29 telephone service contracts and the department's compliance with  
30 diversity and cultural competence with respect to hiring and  
31 promotion practices.

32 (d) The commission shall meet on a monthly basis. The commission  
33 shall be within the Office of Policy and Management for administrative  
34 purposes only.

35 (e) Each year the commission shall prepare a report of its findings  
36 and recommendations with respect to department policy and practice,  
37 including any recommendations for legislation, and shall hold a public  
38 hearing thereon. Not later than January fifteenth of each year, the  
39 commission shall submit such annual report to the Governor and  
40 General Assembly in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
41 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2007	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish a prison oversight commission.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*